

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 01852 242305Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1852

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, VE
SUBJECT: BILATERAL ENERGY TALKS: SCHLESINGER-HERNANDES
MEETING

REF: (A) CARACAS 1695; (B) CARACAS 1107

1. MINISTER OF ENERGY HERNANDEZ HAS INFORMED US THAT THE
FOLLOWING TOPICS ARE HIS MAIN CONCERNS FOR DISCUSSION IN HIS
MEETING SECRETARY SCHLESINGER ON MARCH 6:

I. US ENERGY PROGRAM:

(A) SUMMARY OF THE CURRENT STATUS AND PROSPECTS FOR LEGISL-
TIVE PROVISIONS AND EXECUTIVE REGULATIONS WHICH AFFECT
VENEZUELAN TRADE WITH THE US OF CRUDE OIL AND PRODUCTS.

(B) MARKET OUTLOOK IN THE US FOR CRUDE OIL AND PRODUCTS.

(Q) DEMAND, SUPPLY, AND IMPORTS (1978-80):

(2) LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES OF US ENERGY PROGRAM.

II. VENEZUELA'S OIL SUPPLY PROSPECTS -- SHORT, MEDIUM AND
LONG-TERM.

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PAGE 02 CARACA 01852 242305Z

III. POSSIBLE AREAS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE
US AND VENEZUELA.

THE MINISTER INDICATED HE MAY ALSO WISH TO EXPLORE THE
POSSIBILITY OF PETROLUEM SALES DIRECTLY TO USG CONSUMERS
LIKE DOD. HE WILL ALSO BE PREPARED TO CONFIRM AGREEMENT

ON A PATTERN OF EXPERT EXCHANGES IN VARIOUS ENERGY FIELDS
(REF B) ON WHICH WE ARE REPORTING IN SEPTEL. FINALLY,
THE MINISTER WILL WISH TO DISCUSS WITH SECRETARY
SCHLESINGER POSSIBLE WAYS TO SECURE PARTICIPATION BY US
COMPANIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TAR BELT, I.E., WAYS
OF PACKAGING SUCH COOPERATION SO AS TO AVOID DOMESTIC
POLITICAL RISKS.

2. MINISTER HERNANDEZ WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE SAME
OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE NOVEMBER WORKING LEVEL
TALKS, I.E., AREVALO REYES, ULISES RAMIREZ, ALIRIO PARRA,
AND GURFINKEL, AS WELL AS FELIX ROSSI FROM THE VENEZUELAN
EMBASSY. IN ADDITION, THE GROUP WILL BE JOINED BY LUIS
ENRIQUE BERRIZBEITA, A MINISTRY OF ENERGY OFFICIAL WHO IS
CURRENTLY STUDYING AT A UNIVERSITY IN TEXAS AND WHO WILL
ACT AS INTERPRETER FOR HERNANDEZ.
VAKY

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